

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 287-322, 324, 326-361, 374-403, 416-432, 434-442, 446-491, 507-517, 553-596, 598-607, and 623-632 are pending in the application, with claims 287, 300, 319, 340, 351, 374, 389, 416, 431, 446, 459, 476, 507, 533, 565, 580, 581, and 595 being the independent claims. Amendments are requested to claims 507, 553, 554, 580, and 582. The status identifiers of the claim set presented herein is relative to most recent *compliant* claim set, *i.e.*, the claim set presented in the Amendment and Reply filed on June 2, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this claim set in view of the remarks presented in Applicants' November 8, 2004 Amendment and Reply.

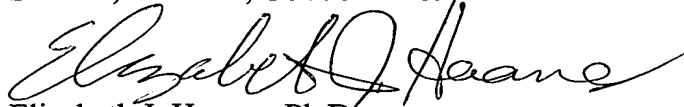
The claim set submitted herewith is believed to be in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c). The remaining sections of the November 8, 2004 Amendment and Reply are have not been reproduced pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice of September 23, 2003. Consideration of these earlier-filed sections in view of the claims presented herein is respectfully requested. Applicants now believe that the all of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this

application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth J. Haanes".

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Date: January 24, 2005

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